

1.1 PURPOSE

This document is the Finalizing Addendum/Environmental Assessment to the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) Draft for the El Paso Line 1903 Conversion Project, as proposed by the El Paso Natural Gas Company (EPNG, the Applicant), in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Taken together, the two documents constitute the Final EIR/EA (FEIR/EA) for the Project. The CSLC is the State Lead Agency for CEQA compliance in the preparation of the EIR/EA, while US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the Federal Lead Agency for NEPA compliance. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is a Cooperating Agency.

This document has been prepared for the CSLC and BLM pursuant to the CEQA¹, NEPA², and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, respectively. The State CEQA Guidelines stipulate that an EIR must be prepared for any project that may have a significant impact on the environment. The El Paso Line 1903 Conversion Project is a “project” as defined by the Guidelines. Upon preliminary review, the CSLC determined that the El Paso Line 1903 Conversion Project (Project) may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and, therefore, an EIR is required. The BLM determined that an EA would be appropriate for NEPA compliance.

The CSLC and BLM, as the Lead Agencies for this Project, are required by section 15089 of the CEQA and Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations to prepare a Final EIR/EA. The Final EIR/EA will be used by the CSLC and BLM as part of the approval process, including setting the conditions of the lease agreement and right-of-way (ROW) grant, and incorporating mitigation measures for Project implementation. A Mitigation Monitoring Program (MMP) is provided in Section 6 of the Draft EIR/EA, with revisions shown in Section 4 herein.

The principal purposes of the EIR/EA are to:

- identify and assess the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the natural and human environment that would result from implementation of the Project;
- describe and evaluate reasonable alternatives to the Project that would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the Project but would avoid or substantially lessen any significant adverse effects of the Project on the environment;
- identify and recommend specific mitigation measures, as necessary, to avoid or minimize significant environmental effects; and
- encourage and facilitate involvement by the public and interested agencies in the environmental review process.

The Project described in the Draft EIR/EA involves the conversion of an approximately 304-mile segment of the former All American Pipeline from crude oil to natural gas service (see map on page 1-3). During the assessment of potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the natural and human environment that would result from implementation of the originally-proposed Project, Class 1 impacts (significant after mitigation) were identified for Biology and Public Safety. Reasonable alternatives that reduce or eliminate these impacts and that would substantially meet the Project purpose and need were developed with the Applicant. The alternatives included:

- No Project Alternative (would not feasibly attain basic objectives of the Project)
- Ehrenberg to Daggett (conversion of 171 miles)
- Ehrenberg to Cadiz (conversion of 88 miles)

¹ section 21000 et seq., California Public Resources Code and the in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act* (section 15000 et seq., California Code of Regulations, Tit. 14.

² Title 40 CFR Parts 1500-1508